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BCStats

# Infoline

*Contact:* bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-17x* *May 2nd, 2011*

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- **44,276 babies born in BC in 2008**
- **One in three Canadian retirees holds some form of debt**

## The Economy

**Note**

Preliminary estimates of provincial GDP growth released by Statistics Canada on April 28 contained some errors. Statistics Canada is in the process of revising the data and will be releasing corrected estimates shortly.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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Revised GDP data was released by Statistics Canada on May 12, 2011. The Infoline write-up of the data appears in

Infoline, Issue 11-19 of May 13, 2011

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sawmills and planing mills in BC produced more lumber this February (+3.9%) than in the same month last year.** Production at Interior mills was up slightly (+1.4%), while those on the Coast (+28.1%) ramped up their output substantially. Canadian lumber production climbed 5.1%, largely due to upturns in BC, Alberta (+16.2%) and Ontario (+21.5%). Year-to-date, BC sawmills continued to account for over half (54%) of the nation's lumber production. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Workers in British Columbia earned an average $841 (*seasonally adjusted, current dollars*) per week in February.** The national average was $875, with workers in Prince Edward Island having the lowest average earnings ($718) and those in Alberta boasting the highest ($1,038).

**Report** Trading Up: From Apprenticeship to Employment

**Did you know...**

There are over 25,000 varieties of daffodils and they come in shades of yellow, white, orange and peach. *Source: The Royal Horticultural Society*

The average earnings of workers in BC were 0.5% higher in February than in the previous month. Nationally, average weekly earnings were up 0.2%. Average weekly earnings are affected by rates of pay as well as the number of hours worked each week.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada (SEPH)*

## Births & Fertility

- **There were 44,276 births in British Columbia in 2008, up 1.4% from the number recorded in 2007.** Nationally, births registered totalled 377,886, an increase of 2.7% over the previous year.

  BC mothers aged 30 to 34 accounted for the largest share (31.7%) of all births in the province in 2008, while births to older mothers (aged 45 to 49) made up the smallest portion (0.2%). Just over three percent of babies were born to teenage mothers (aged 15 to 19).

  In BC, the average age of women that gave birth in 2008 was 30.0 years, the highest in the country (tied with Ontario). The national average was 29.3 years. Mothers in Nunavut were the youngest in the nation, with an average age of 24.4 years. In 2008, the fertility rate of Canadian women aged 30 to 34 surpassed that of women aged 25 to 29 for the fourth straight year. Among the provinces, British Columbia had the highest fertility rate for women aged 40 to 44. *Data Source: S.C. Cat. #84F0210-XIE*

- **BC's total fertility rate (i.e., the average number of children that women aged 15 to 49 will have in their lifetime) was 1.51 in 2008, down 0.6% from 2007.** This was the lowest fertility rate in the country, but Nova Scotia (1.54), Newfoundland & Labrador (1.58), Ontario (1.58) and New Brunswick (1.59) also recorded rates below the national average of 1.68. Conversely, Nunavut (2.98), the Northwest Territories (2.08) and Saskatchewan (2.05) had the highest rates. In 2008, the nation's total fertility rate (TFR) was the highest recorded since 1992 (1.69). However, the TFR remains well below the 2.1 children per woman rate that must be maintained to replace the population in the absence of migration. The last time that the total fertility rate exceeded the generational replacement level was in 1971.

  At 10.1, the province's crude birth rate (the number of live births per 1,000 people) in 2008 was among the lowest in the country and well below the national average of 11.3. Alberta (14.2) had the highest crude birth rate among the provinces. *Data Source: S.C. Cat. #84F0210-XIE*

- **The proportion of births occurring among Canadian women aged 30 and older has increased significantly in recent years.** Fertility rates for Canadian women aged 30 and over have climbed notably since the turn of the century, while rates for younger women have declined. In 2008, there were 118,775 babies born to women aged 30 to 34, the highest number of all age groups. Similarly, the fertility of women aged 40 to 44 has more than doubled from 1988 to 2008, going from 3.6 to 8.4 per 1,000 women.

  The recent increase in births among older women could be attributable to a myriad of factors including length of post-secondary education, immigration and a continued increase in the number of dual-income households. *Data Source: S.C. Cat. #84F0210-XIE*

## Debt & Retirement

- **In 2009, over a third (34%) of Canadian retirees over the age of 55 held mortgage or consumer debt.** The average debt load of this group was $19,000, with 17% owing $100,000 or more and 25% owing less than $5,000. Retirees with higher household income, higher levels of education and those who owned a home were more likely to hold debt. However, home ownership, income and education were also associated with higher levels of net worth and lower debt-to-asset ratios. Those who are retired and in debt had a much lower average debt level ($19,000) than their non-retired counterparts of the same age group ($40,000). *Data Source: S.C. Cat. #75-001-XIE*

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***April 29th, 2011***

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Contact: Amanda Bird
250-387-8931 Amanda.Bird@gov.bc.ca
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# Trading Up: From Apprenticeship to Employment

The BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey is an annual province-wide survey of former apprenticeship students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution.

This article is based on findings from the 2010 APPSO Summary Report. The full report is available online at http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/APPSO/APPSOPublications.aspx.

The Conference Board of Canada projects there will be a skilled labour shortage in British Columbia of approximately 160,000 positions in five years. An aging population, a rapidly growing knowledge economy, and increased global connections will place pressure on B.C.'s ability to get workers with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time.

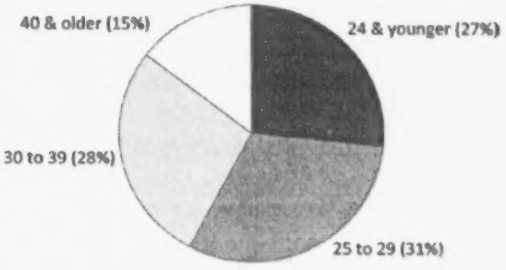
The Ministry of Advanced Education, the Industry Training Authority, and the institutions that provide technical training share the commitment to building a skilled workforce for the future and work continuously to expand and improve delivery of apprenticeship training in B.C. Results of the annual Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey are an important part of that process.

## Who were former apprenticeship students?

The typical former apprenticeship student[1] surveyed in 2010 was male, about 28 years old and had trained in one of the construction trades. The percentage of female respondents in 2010 was 5 percent. Consistent with previous years, the program area with the highest rate of female participation (45 percent) was Culinary Arts.

At the time of the survey, the median age of respondents was 28. The age of respondents ranged from 18 to 61, although very few were over 50 and only 15 percent were 40 or older.

Almost six of ten former apprenticeship students were under 30 years of age




Note: Age is at the time of the survey.

Most respondents were born in Canada, and of the 10 percent whose country of origin was not Canada, 75 percent were citizens and 24 percent were landed immigrants.

## What apprenticeship programs did survey respondents take?

The former students had apprenticed in a variety of trades.[2] The programs with the largest number of respondents were Electrician and Carpentry; nearly one third of respondents were in one of these two program areas. Steel Fabrication & Welding and Plumbing were not far behind, followed by Automotive Mechanics.

Apprenticeship program areas

| Apprenticeship Program Area | % of Total Respondents |
|---|---|
| Electrician | 16% |
| Carpentry | 15% |
| Steel Fabrication & Welding | 12% |
| Plumbing | 12% |
| Automotive Mechanics | 7% |
| Medium/Heavy Duty Mechanics | 7% |
| Exterior and Interior Finishing Trades | 4% |
| Industrial Mechanics & Maintenance | 4% |
| Pipefitter & Sprinkler Fitter | 4% |
| Culinary Arts | 4% |
| Autobody/Collision & Repair | 2% |
| Machinist | 2% |
| Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration | 2% |
| Construction Heavy Equipment | 2% |
| Precision Metal Working | 1% |
| Other | 4% |
| Total | 100% |

### How many received qualification or certification?

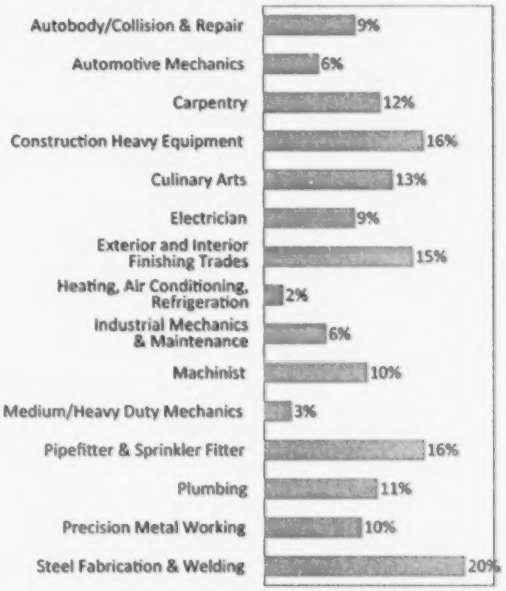
A large majority (83 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed said they received their Trades Qualification (TQ)—also called British Columbia Certificate of Qualification (C of Q)—many with Inter-provincial (IP) or Red Seal endorsement. To receive certification, apprentices must successfully complete a number of work-based training hours, complete or successfully challenge all required levels of technical training, and pass examinations.

### What was the labour force participation of former students?

Labour force participation—those employed or looking for work—of former apprenticeship students has remained consistently high: 97 to 99 percent over the past five years. In 2010, almost all (97 percent) of the former students surveyed were in the labour force. In comparison, the labour force participation rate (unadjusted) for the B.C. population aged 20 to 54 was 83 percent in March of 2010, according to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

While respondents to the annual surveys have had very high rates of labour force participation, employment has been on the downswing for the last two years. For several years, respondents had unemployment rates under 3 percent, so a jump to 8 percent in 2009 and a further increase to 11 percent in 2010 was startling. Those recent rates were a reflection of the declining employment in apprenticeable occupations that occurred across Canada, and that was particularly pronounced in B.C. Some occupations were harder hit than others, and as a result, the unemployment rates for the apprenticeship program areas varied considerably.

Some program areas had much lower unemployment rates than others



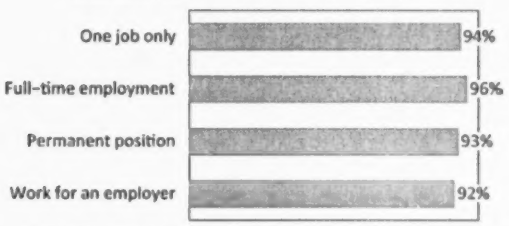

Note: The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

### What were former students' employment outcomes?

At the time of the survey, 86 percent of survey respondents were employed at a job or business. In approximately the same time period, March 2010, the employment rate (unadjusted) for the B.C. population aged 20 to 54 was 76 percent, according to the Statistic Canada Labour Force Survey.

Most employed respondents had only one job and it was most likely a permanent, full-time position rather than a part-time or temporary one. Likewise, most respondents were employed by someone else rather than being self-employed (8 percent were self-employed).

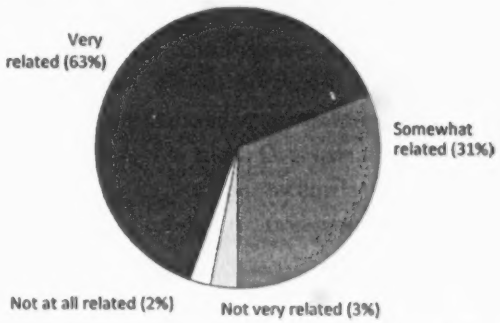
Most employed respondents had full-time, permanent positions with an employer




Note: Percentages above are based on employed respondents.

The respondents who had employment found it relatively quickly—the majority were employed in less than one month. Almost all working respondents had jobs related to their training. Most said the knowledge and skills they gained in their training were useful to them in the performance of their jobs.

Most employed respondents said their current job was related to their apprenticeship training




Note: Percentages above are based on employed respondents.

In spite of their higher than usual unemployment rate, the former apprentices surveyed in 2010 were very positive about their apprenticeship experiences. The findings of the APPSO survey confirm that B.C. apprenticeship training is appropriate, well-received, and meeting the goal of preparing a skilled workforce for the future.

### What occupations did former apprenticeship students have?

A substantial majority—90 percent—of the employed respondents were working in Trades, Transport, and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations.[3] In addition, a handful (n=16) were employed as managers in construction and transportation. The remainder of the respondents were spread thinly across all the other occupational categories, although 4 percent were in Sales and Service Occupations.

There is a very good correlation between former students' apprenticeship programs and their subsequent occupations. For example, 96 percent of the respondents who apprenticed in the program area of Automotive Mechanics were employed as motor vehicle mechanics or supervisors, 96 percent of those

in the program area of Plumbing were employed as plumbers, pipefitters, and gas fitters or supervisors, and 95 percent of those who apprenticed as an electrician were employed in electrical trades or as supervisors.[4]

### What was the wage of respondents employed at the time of the survey?

At the time of the survey, the median hourly wage of employed respondents was $29—the same as it was for 2009 survey respondents. Until 2010, the median hourly wage among former apprenticeship students had been increasing steadily since the 2005 survey—wage figures in previous years were: $24 (2005), $25 (2006), $27 (2007), $28 (2008), and $29 (2009).[5]

The hourly wage varies quite a bit across occupations. Among the 10 most common occupations for 2010 respondents, the median hourly wage ranges from a low of $15 (Chefs & Cooks, Butchers & Bakers), to a high of $33 (Machinery & Transportation Equipment Mechanics).

Hourly wage varies significantly by occupation

| Occupation | Hourly Wage |
|---|---|
| Machinery & Transportation Equipment Mechanics | $33 |
| Printing Press Operators, Commercial Divers, & NEC | $32 |
| Electrical Trades & Telecommunication Occupations | $31 |
| Contractors & Supervisors, Trades & Related | $30 |
| Metal Forming, Shaping & Erecting Occupations | $30 |
| Plumbers, Pipefitters & Gas Fitters | $29 |
| Machinists and Related Occupations | $26 |
| Carpenters & Cabinetmakers | $26 |
| Motor Vehicle Mechanics | $25 |
| Chefs & Cooks | $15 |

Note: The wages above are medians; the occupation groups are at the NOC 3-digit level.

[1] When the term *former students* is used, it is meant to represent the former apprenticeship students who responded to one of the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes surveys.

[2] The trades programs named in this article have been organized according to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) coding and then grouped to simplify reporting.

[3] The National Occupational Classification (NOC) system, which is a taxonomy of occupations in the Canadian labour market, was used to assign 4-digit codes to the occupations former students had at the time of the survey. The codes are used to describe occupations and to aggregate them into occupational categories. The grouping of occupations called "Trades, Transport, and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations" is at the 1-digit level.

[4] This grouping of occupations is at the 3-digit NOC level.

[5] These median wage amounts have not been adjusted for inflation.

For more information visit the BC Student Outcomes website
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/
/Home.aspx

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

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## *BC at a glance . . .*

| POPULATION (thousands) | Jan 1/2011 | % change on one year ago |
|---|---|---|
| BC | 4,554.1 | 1.2 |
| Canada | 34,278.4 | 1.1 |
| **GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)** | | |
| *(BC - at market prices)* | 2009 | % change on one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)* | 191,006 | -3.4 |
| GDP *($ 2002 millions)* | 161,851 | -1.8 |
| GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)* | 36,287 | -3.5 |
| Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)* | 25,374 | -1.9 |
| **TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)** | | % change on prev. month |
| Manufacturing Shipments - Feb 2011 | 3,176 | 0.9 |
| Merchandise Exports - Feb 2011 | 2,581 | -3.4 |
| Retail Sales - Feb 2011 | 4,839 | 0.7 |
| **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX** | % change on | 12-month avg |
| *(all items - Mar 2011)* | one year ago | % change |
| BC | 3.1 | 1.8 |
| Vancouver | 3.0 | 2.1 |
| Victoria | 2.9 | 1.4 |
| Canada | 3.3 | 2.0 |
| **LABOUR FORCE (thousands)** | | % change on |
| *(seasonally adjusted)* | Mar 2011 | prev. month |
| Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC | 3.5 | |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,464.0 | -0.6 |
| Employed - BC | 2,264.0 | 0.2 |
| Unemployed - BC | 200.0 | -8.1 |
| | | Feb 2011 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)* | 8.1 | 8.8 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)* | 7.7 | 7.8 |
| **INTEREST RATES (percent)** | Apr 27/2011 | Apr 28/2010 |
| Prime Business Rate | 3.00 | 2.25 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 3.70 | 3.80 |
| - 5 year | 5.69 | 6.25 |
| **US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE** | Apr 27/2011 | Apr 28/2010 |
| *(avg. noon spot rate)* Cdn $ per US $ | 0.9549 | 1.0128 |
| *(closing rate)* US $ per Cdn $ | 1.0522 | 0.9913 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE** | | % change on |
| *(industrial aggregate - dollars)* | Mar 2011 | one year ago |
| BC | 827.55 | 0.9 |
| Canada | 836.77 | 2.9 |

**SOURCES:**

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

### 2010 BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey Summary Report

The 2010 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey was conducted with former students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Approximately six months later, from January to April of 2010, 2,750 former students from 29 institutions (14 public and 15 private) participated in survey telephone interviews - the gross response rate was 56 percent. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf

### File Finder

BC Stats has created a powerful new tool to find small area data on the web site. Users can filter on an area type or a specific location, time period, product, and subject. The File Finder app is still very much under development and only a few products have been linked into it as yet, but it is already quite useful so we decided to share it with you and ask you to help guide its further development. File Finder locates data files. If you are looking to search through our articles use the top bar tab called Analytical Reports.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/filefinder.asp

### Canada Votes – Know Your Riding

On May 2nd Canadians head to the polls. Our Federal Electoral District profiles will help you to understand the characteristics that define your constituency.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/profiles/detailed/ch_fed.asp

### Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, April 2011

### Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor, April 2011
- Labour Force Statistics, April 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, April 2011

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca